(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme, and (v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and to raise the income and socio-economic status of the weavers.

Sick textile mills

†3228. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many textile mills have been lying sick for more than last five years;

(b) if so, the details of performance of these sick mills, mill-wise;

(c) the steps taken to run these mills smoothly and to improve their status by modernization during last five years and details of funds allocated for this purpose; and

(d) the details of proposed/finalized action plan to run these sick units smoothly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Under the Ministry of Textiles, two Public Sector Undertakings, i.e. National Textile Corporation (NTC) and British India Corporation (BIC) have textuke mills, which have been lying sick for more than last five years.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Diluting/repealing compulsory jute packaging for foodgrains

3229. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has represented in May, 2006 to dilute/repeal the provisions of compulsory jute packaging for foodgrains and sugar beyond 30th June, 2006 to project palstic women sick industries and also to check the import of jute bags from neighbouring countries;

(b) whether 14th Standing Advisory Committee had recommended reservation of 75 per cent for foodgrain and 20 percent for sugar under the Jute Packaging Materials (JPM) Act, 1987 for the jute year 2006-07; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not accepting the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No formal representation from Government of Gujarat in May 2006 is pending consideration by Ministry of Textiles.

(b) No, Sir. The 14th Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) had recommended the following levels of reservation for the commodities mentioned against their names for the jute year 2006-07 (July-June).

Foodgrains	: 75%
Sugar	: 70%

(c) While deciding the quantum of reservation, as per the provision of Section 4(2) of Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, the Government considers various factors like recommendations of SAC, supply and demand

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

position of Jute, protection of interests of persons engaged in jute industry and production of raw jute, need for continued maintenance of jute industry etc. Considering the above factors, as well as the National Common Minimum Programme, the Government decided to provide even higher protection to the Jute Sector than that was recommended by the SAC.

Subsidy to units exporting handloom products

3230. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide subsidy to units exporting handloom products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing various schemes under which financial assistance is provided to the handloom expoting units for promoting exports. The Schemes include Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Market Development Assistance (MDA), Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI), Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme (DEPB), Focus Product Scheme (FPS), Focus Market Scheme (FMS) etc.

Export of readymade garments

3231. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of readymade garments is not likely to achieve the target this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to increase the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per trends discemible from available exports statistics, exports of readymade garments is unlikely to achieve the targets of US$ 12065 million set for the Financial Year 2007-08.

(b) the shortfall in reaching the targets is being attributed by the apparel industry to the steep and consistent appreciation of the Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* US dollar. In addition, the US market which accounts for 35% of Indian garment exports, has been sluggish since the beginning of 2007.

(c) Government has taken several measures to strengthen the textiles industry, which will also have a positive impact on the exports of textiles and clothing. These measures are as follow:—

(i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector. TUFS has been extended to cover the XI five year Plan period. For the speedy modernisation of the textiles processing sector, Government introduced, w.e.f. 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.